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News Release

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Crews making good progress toward containment on Scott and Airstrip fires

Tusayan, Ariz., July 10, 2016—For Immediate Release. Officials on the Tusayan Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest are optimistic but will remain cautious as fire crews begin to get the upper hand and move closer toward full containment of the Scott and Airstrip Fires.

The Airstrip fire has seen no growth for several days while crews continue strengthening containment lines by extinguishing all hot material from the interior of the burned area that could potentially be lifted and carried across the holding lines by gusty winds. Increasing the depth of the cooled edges continues daily which will help alleviate holding concerns.

On the Scott Fire, firefighters are confident to be able to connect the hand and dozer lines on the remaining open portions that are in the more difficult steeper terrain sometime today. However, short runs of wind driven fire are still being observed during the afternoon hours of the day.

“Progress has been good and we are pleased to see a dramatic drop in fire behavior over the past two shifts, said incident commander Gregory Juvan. “However we will continue to play it safe by positioning our forces to be ready for the possibility of fire to move rapidly again with high winds persisting in the forecast”

To ensure firefighter and public safety, forest visitors are asked to avoid driving into the fire area and where personnel are working. A temporary flight restriction remains in effect over the area of the fire as well as an area closure order on a section of the Arizona Trail. An alternate detour route along forest road 310 adjacent to the closed section of trail has been provided.

Both fires will continue to produce some visible smoke that may be noticeable from the communities of Tusayan, Valle, Cameron, Tuba City, and from both rims of the Grand Canyon.

Additional fire information for the Kaibab National Forest can be obtained through the following sources: InciWeb; <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4840/> <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4839/> Arizona Trail area closure information; <http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/kaibab/alerts-notices/?aid=35045> Kaibab National Forest Fire Information Phone Line (928) 635-8311; Text Message – text ‘follow kaibabnf’ to 40404.

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